THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Any noticeable effect on power generation or supply attributable to climatic change has not been observed so far. It is, however, mentioned that a large number of transmission lines tripped in the Northern Region on 7th and 9th March, 2008, *prima facie* on account of flasbover of insulators due to unprecedented fog, high humidity, coupled with high levels of pollution, further aggravated by the absence of winter rains. In order to maintain the smooth power flow from power surplus States to power deficient States, the Northern, Western, Eastern and North Eastern Grid have been synchronized.

The rise in temperature, attributed to climate change can, however, increase demand for power.

Revamping of RGGVY

4095. SHRI M.V. MYSURAREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has revamped the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY);

(b) if so, the details of changes proposed in the revamped Yojana; and

(c) how the Ministry is planning to achieve the goal of electricity on demand by 2012?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government after evaluation of implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) during 10th Plan, has revamped the same for implementation during 11th Plan period.

(b) The scheme has been approved with the following amendments:

1. The States will finalize their Rural Electrification Plans in consultation with Ministry of Power and notify the same within six months. Rural Electrification Plan will be a roadmap for generation, transmission, sub-transmission and distribution of electricity in the State which will enusre the achievement of objectives of the scheme.
2. For projects to be eligible for capital subsidy under the scheme, prior commitment of the State would also be obtained before sanction of projects under the scheme for:

(i) Guarantee by State Government for a minimum daily supply of 6-8 hours of electricity in the RGGVY network with the assurance of meeting any deficit in this context by supplying electricity at subsidized tariff as required under the Electricity Act, 2003.

(ii) Deployment of franchisees for the management of rural distribution in projects financed under the scheme and to undertake steps necessary to operationalize the scheme.

3. BPL households will be provided for electricity connections. The rate of reimbursement for providing free connections to BPL households would be Rs. 2200 per household.
4. The projects under the scheme will be subject to implementation of a three tier quality monitoring mechanism.

The cost norms for village electrification have been revised as under:

Cost (Rs. in lakhs)

1.	Electrification of unelectrified villages	
	(a) In normal terrain	13
	(b) In hilly, tribal, desert area	18
2.	Intensive electrification of already electrified villages	
	(a) In normal terrain	4
	(b) In hilly, tribal, desert area	6
3.	Cost of electricity connection to BPL households	0.022

(c) Central Electricity Authority has intimated that capacity addition target of 78,577 MW has been proposed during 11th Plan. However, as per latest assessment, a capacity addition of 78,520 MW is proposed to be achieved during 11th Plan. With this capacity addition the demand forecast as per 17th EPS (Peak as well as Energy) will be fully met by the terminal year of 11th Plan *i.e.* 2011-12.

Private companies in power distribution sector

†4096. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power distribution in several parts of the country has been handed over to the private companies;

(b) if so, the names and locations of the companies engaged in power distribution and the year since when the same are engaged in the power distribution work;

(c) whether any surveys have been conducted from time to time, to assess the gains the consumers are getting from the work being conducted by the private companies; and

(d) if so, the areas of which companies have been surveyed, along with the dates and outcome of the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Distribution of electricity comes within the purview of the States. Accordingly, the Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) are regulated by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003.

According to the information furnished by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the details of private distribution companies operating in various parts of the country are given in the Statement *(See* below).

The electricity Act, 2003 provides for specification of performance standards of a licensee or a class of licensees by the Appropriate Commissions. Further, the National electricity

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.